



Pete Ricketts, Governor

DATE: April 2, 2020
TO: NDCS Inmate Population
FROM: Dir. Scott R. Frakes
RE: COVID-19 Status Update

It is expected that the COVID 19 infection rate will peak in Nebraska around the end of this month. As I have said before, we are working hard to flatten out the rate of infection and ensure we have the resources needed to take care of everyone. So far we have done an excellent job. As of right now there are still no staff or inmates with COVID 19. I intentionally use the word "we". This isn't a staff issue, an inmate issue, or a community issue. It is a "we" issue. We have to work together to keep each other safe and healthy.

Keeping up with the changing information related to the pandemic is challenging, but most of the prevention strategies have not changed in the last couple of weeks. These include:

- Wash your hands often, and especially before you touch your face
- Keep your house clean
- Social distancing – trying to stay at least six feet from people you are not living with
- Keeping all "high touch" areas sanitized repeatedly throughout the day – door knobs and door edges, handrails, flat surfaces
- Cough into the inside of your elbow
- If you are not feeling well, notify medical staff
- Wash your hands thoroughly, front, back, thumbs – scrub for at least 20 seconds. It takes 20 seconds to sing Happy Birthday twice

Starting on April 3, 2020 all staff will be wearing masks while at work. These masks provide a barrier to airborne droplets, and will provide the population with greater protection from community transmission. Anyone that presents potential COVID 19 symptoms, or had potential exposure, is being isolated from the general population. Fortunately, there have been very few people isolated so far, and as stated previously no one has tested positive for COVID

Scott R. Frakes, Director

Dept of Correctional Services

P.O. Box 94661 Lincoln, NE 68509-4661
Phone: 402-471-2654 Fax: 402-479-5623

corrections.nebraska.gov

19. While the flu season (Influenza A & B) is winding down, it is now allergy season. Allergy symptoms can include runny nose, dry eyes, mild cough, and nausea. The primary symptoms of COVID 19 are fever (100.4 and above), dry cough, and shortness of breath. If you don't feel well, notify medical staff and get assessed.

I continue to be impressed by the general tone and attitude. Everyone is getting tired and stressed. I will continue to authorize as much out of cell time as is safe for everyone. By continuing to follow directions, including the requirement to not group together, we will be able to keep providing some off-unit activities. The next six weeks will be challenging. We can minimize those challenges by working together.